

Taverham High School

Weekly Newsletter

24/09/21



To create a learning environment within which every individual can realise their full potential, develop self-respect, respect for others and to prepare themselves for life in a changing world.

Week 2: w/c 27/09/21

Week 1: w/c 04/10/21

Message from Gareth Yassin, Deputy Headteacher

It has been a great week for our school community in general, with really settled lessons and lots of fantastic learning opportunities. I've seen everything from 'Ready, Steady, Cook' and testing for starch in foods using iodine solution to whole class debates in personal development lessons and I've lost count of the number of times I've heard the baseline from Uptown Funk emanating from the music department – I think I'm humming it in my sleep now! Tutor groups have been recognizing this weekend's European Day of languages by taking part in activities relating to the benefits of bilingualism. More than anything, I have really enjoyed seeing the school field full at lunchtime with groups chatting and footballs flying everywhere, and it has been lovely to see the school canteen and atrium buzzing with life again. You will know from my letters earlier this week that we are seeing increased numbers of Covid cases in our community – and we wish those suffering a quick and full recovery – but we are doing everything in our power to keep everyone safe while avoiding returning to the bubbles and zones that we were forced to last year. I am confident that, if everyone plays their part, we will see decreased numbers again very soon.

This week and next we are focusing our work on the SEND provision in the school and finding ways that we can better support those students who struggle a little more or need additional support in school. It has been a really interesting week so far and thank you to those of you who gave up time to fill in a questionnaire about yours and your child's experiences. That feedback is really important to us and will help us improve through the year.

This weeks Year 11 'Next Steps' event has proved popular and already around half of the year group have viewed the 25-minute presentation (available here <https://youtu.be/FkwMuZGIXIk>) to help them make a decision around 'what next?' after they've graduated from Year 11. We love welcoming students back in Year 12 to study our A-level and vocational courses and they tell us that the feeling of being a Sixth Former at Taverham is completely different from being in Years 7-11, but don't take my word for it, please put 11 November 2021 as a date in your diary to come and visit the centre and speak to our staff. We've seen a number of students return to us from other post-16 centres over the last few weeks having realized that the quality of teaching is excellent in our Sixth Form along with the resources we offer so please visit us, ask questions of my colleagues and get in touch if we can help in anyway.

This week Miss Gillham has been finalizing our programme of extracurricular clubs and activities and it is absolutely heart warming to see how many excellent opportunities are out there thanks to the goodwill and energy of staff. From the launch of the school magazine (Mr Chapman) to MFL Film Club (Miss Gillham and Miss Campbell) to eSports and Debate Club, there really is something for everyone! Miss Bradshaw, in the library, has set up some brilliant things for book club and creative writing, and watch this space for an exciting author-led workshop at Halloween. Please do encourage your child to get involved where they can when the programme comes out to families in the next few days.

Finally, our ELFs in Year 10 have begun working with our new Year 7s this week and, as ever, are doing a fantastic job supporting each other – thank you.

Wishing all of our families a lovely weekend and we'll see you bright and breezy on Monday morning.

News from the English Team

It has been fantastic to welcome students back into the newly-decorated English block this half term. We have also welcomed some new members of the department - Miss Clifford, who joins us from Hartismere School, and Mrs Gardiner, who joins us from Sir John Leman High School.

Key Stage 3 is all about the novel this half term. Year 7 are studying the theme of childhood through either 'Freak the Mighty', by Rodman Philbrick, 'Wonder', by R Palacio, or 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne. Year 8 are tackling dystopia in either 'Noughts and Crosses', by Malorie Blackman, or 'The Hunger Games' by Suzanne Collins. Year 9 are exploring the gothic through Susan Hill's 'The Woman in Black', and we are currently in the process of organising a trip to see this in production at the theatre.

Key Stage 4 students have returned with fantastic attitudes to learning and are progressing well with their topics. Year 10 have begun their GCSE Literature course with some classic Dickens - 'A Christmas Carol', while in media studies they have been learning new terminology and exploring how representation is constructed. Year 11 are busy analysing non-fiction writing for their English language GCSE, while our media students are planning their non-exam assessment.

We are looking forward to welcoming prospective students and their parents/carers to our Open Evening next month. Watch out for some fun activities in the English block!

Messages and reminders

- A reminder that, due to an increased number of cases of Covid in the last week or so, we have put in place a few measures to stop the spread as much as possible. One of these is that students and staff are now expected to wear masks (unless exempt) in all social areas and between lessons when indoors. Please support us by discussing this and the importance of good hand hygiene with your child to ensure we remain as safe as possible. As soon as we can, we will step-down these measures and we are monitoring the situation regularly each day.
- Year 7 students will all sit CATs tests over the next fortnight in an English, Maths and Science lesson. They do not need to prepare for these assessments, they are just to help us with setting students in the penultimate week of term, but they do need to bring a set of earphones with them if at all possible for the next fortnight.

Celebrations

- Mr Yassin would like to thank Isabella in Year 10 for agreeing to change her groups in order to allow another student to access their chosen options. A completely selfless act and an excellent example of what it means to be part of a community.
- Mrs Goldspink has been really impressed with Ben in Year 9, she says he has made an awesome start to the year producing amazing written work with great focus. And sticking with the English theme, Miss Hollis' 11EngRM having been brilliant since they returned from the Summer break – maximum effort from everyone – well done!
- Jacob K in Year 13 finished 23rd in Europe last weekend for the European National Air Rifle championships – what an achievement!
- Zac M in Year 11 has been working with a floor screeding company and appeared on Grand Designs this week. Well done, Zac.
- Finally, well done and thank you to Joe, Luca, TeeJay and Jason for their hard work on the school garden – the fruits of their labour (potatoes) were harvested this week and have been entered into competition (run by Solana Seeds) with the team hoping to achieve highly for quality, yield and taste. Good luck!

Useful Contacts and Websites

- Young Minds: www.youngminds.org.uk
- NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk
- Thinkuknow: www.thinkuknow.co.uk
- Children's society: www.childrensociety.co.uk
- Ownit: www.bbc.com/ownit
- Just one number Chathealth: <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/chathealth>
- Nelson's Journey: <https://nelsonsjourney.org.uk/>
- MAP: <https://www.map.uk.net/>
- Kooth: <https://www.kooth.com/>
- Staying Safe: <https://staying-safe.net/home>

Guide for parents and carers, coping with self harm: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2015-12-01-new-guide-parents-who-are-coping-their-childs-self-harm-you-are-not-alone>

Safeguarding at Taverham High School

The School's Designated Safeguarding Leads are: Ms Ricketts, Mrs Killington, Ms Philpot, Mr Blowers.

Emergency contact number: 0344 800 8020

NSPCC- Run Helpline for Victims of Sexual Abuse in Schools: 0800 136 663

Dates for the Diary

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27/9/21: School photographs Years 7-10• 27/9/21-01/10/21: Year 13 Mock Exams• 29/9/21-30/9/21: Year 11 Art Mock Exam• 1/10/21-31/10/21: Black History Month• 4/10/21-10/10/21: World Space Week | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15/10/21: Year 8 and Year 11 Tracking Data Published• 20/10/21: Pastoral Open Surgery 4-5pm• 21/10/21: Year 11 Revision Evening• 21/10/21: GCSE drama rehearsal• 22/10/21: GCSE component 1 exam• 22/10/21: Term ends.• 1/11/21: Term begins (week 2) |
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